



*Gems
of
Spiritual
and
Worldly
Wisdom
from
Sri Guru Granth Sahib*



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On the eve of
the 300th anniversary
of the Coronation of
Sri Guru Granth Sahib
as the Eternal Guru
(Gurgaddi Divas)
by
Guru Gobind Singh Jee.

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Sri Guru Granth Sahib

The holy scripture of the Sikh faith is called “Guru Granth Sahib”. It is a spiritual lighthouse which offers, through poetical compositions, sublime thoughts for entire mankind. It is a collection of devotional hymns and prayers.

It was compiled by the fifth Master, Guru Arjan Dev in 1604, in the city of Amritsar. He had the poetic compositions of the first four Masters and some hymns of other holy persons 'belonging to Hindu as well as Muslim faiths', which were handed over to him by the fourth Master Guru Ram Das. To these he added his own, and took the help of his devoted disciple and renowned scholar, Bhai Gurdas, for writing the Holy Scripture. It took him fifteen months to complete this monumental work. It was installed with due honor and prayer in the Golden Temple and an old devoted Sikh of Gur Nanak, Baba Budha, was appointed its first priest. It was named 'Pothi Sahib' which means sacred Scripture.

The present shape to Guru Granth Sahib was given by Guru Gobind Singh. The tenth Master, at Damdama Sahib, Punjab, in 1705. He added the hymns of his father, ninth Guru Sri Guru Teg Bahadur, and dictated the whole scripture to Bhai Mani Singh. In October, 1708, before his departure from this world, he designated the Holy Scripture as his successor and Eternal Guru. All the Sikhs were enjoined to treat the Granth as Guru. So it is called Guru Granth Sahib.

Guru Granth Sahib is written in Gurmukhi script. A major portion of its language, which is quite similar to Sant Bhasha, is very close to Punjabi. Sanskrit, Persian, and some other dialects of Punjabi have also been used. The Holy Scripture contains 5894

divine hymns on 1430 pages. The hymns of Guru Nanak come first, followed by those of the other Gurus in the order they followed him. All the Gurus use the title 'Nanak' at the end of their hymns. To distinguish the correct authorship, each Guru is designated by 'Mohalla' with a number. Thus Mohalla five means, the fifth Master (fifth Nanak). Compositions of 15 Hindu holy persons and Muslim saints have also been included. Some stanzas composed by a number of bards in praise of the first five Gurus are also included in the Holy Granth. These are inspired compositions. All the compositions are grouped into 31 musical measures (Ragas). Mythological references are only illustrative and do not indicate the belief of Gurus.

It is not the 1430 pages, but the contents (divine instructions) which make it the Eternal Guru of the Sikhs. The Holy Granth starts with the fundamental posulate (Mool Mantar) which describes the one Eternal and Omnipotent God. Teachings of Guru Granth Sahib emphasize on the shared communal experience. Extinction of ego or self is the cornerstone of its teachings. The path of renunciation and aloofness from the world is abjured. The idea of symbolic relation of human soul as the Lord's consort is often quoted in the Holy Granth. One of the prominent features of the teachings of the Guru Granth Sahib is its humanitarian and compassionate attitude towards the fellow human beings. According to its teachings, salvation can be obtained by leading the life of an honest householder with love for the humanity and God. All of the hymns in the Holy Granth show fundamental unity of all religions and preach us the things that are meant for the whole mankind without any distinction with regard to color or creed.

According to Macauliffe, the Granth's teaching contains sublime truth and their study elevates the readers spiritually, morally, and socially. There is the least tinge of sectarianism. It teaches us to control, but not kill our lust, greed, anger, and ego.

One of the most distinct features of the Guru Granth Sahib is its Catholic character. As already mentioned, besides the composition the first five Masters and the ninth Master, it contains the hymns of Kabeer, a low caste weaver; Nam Dev, a low caste calico printer; Ravi Das, a shoe maker from the untouchable caste; Dhanna, an ordinary cultivator; Sain, a barber; and Sheikh Farid, a Muslim. This was done when the caste system in India had paralyzed the conscious of Hindu society. Thus, it shows the fundamental unity of all religions.

Originality is its distinct feature. It is the only Holy Scripture in the world which has been compiled by one of the founders of the religion. Macauliffe writes in his book, *The Sikh Religion*, "Many of the great teachers the world has known, have not left a line of their own compositions and we only know what they taught through tradition or secondhand information." He also states that it would be difficult to point to a religion of greater originality or to a more comprehensive ethical system. Many non-Sikh writers and philosophers of reputation have expressed their appreciation for this Holy Scripture. To name a few, both Professor Arnold Toynbee, the great historian and Pearl Buck, the Nobel Prize winner for literature have studied the Scripture and remarked that it is the unique holy scripture of the world

Gems of Spiritual and Wordly Wisdom
From
Sri Guru Granth Sahib

The world is up in flames, shower it with Your Mercy, and save it. Save it, and deliver it, by whatever method it takes, O Lord!

Guru Amar Das, P.853

(O' friend) The One God is our father; we are the children of the One God, and have the same guide (Guru).

Guru Arjan Dev, P. 611

Believe in the brotherhood of all of mankind as the highest order of Yogis; conquer your own mind, and conquer the world.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.6

The Merciful Lord has now given the command that no one will tyrannize anyone, and all will abide in peace.

Guru Arjan Dev, P. 74

One reaps as one sows.

Guru Ram Das, P.366

O Nanak! Only he who earns by the sweat of his brow and gives something to charity recognizes the true way of life.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.1245

Fools quarrel about flesh and meat, but they know nothing about meditation and spiritual wisdom.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.1289

No one is my enemy, and no one is a stranger; I get along with everyone.

Guru Arjan Dev, P.1299

Truth is high, but higher still is truthful living.

Guru Nanak Dev, P. 62

The world acknowledges those who follow the true path.
Guru Arjan Dev, P.135

They who merely sit (live) together are not said to be husband and wife. They who have one soul and two bodies are called husband and wife.
Guru Amar Das, P.788

The lady gardener plucks leaves (for worship) .Every leaf has life, but (it is ironic that) the stone (God) for which she plucks leaves is lifeless.
Bhagat Kabir, P.479

Fareed, the Creator is in the Creation, and the Creation abides in God. Whom can we call bad? There is none without Him.
Sheikh Farid, P.1381

Look ahead (for the bright future) and do not turn your shoulders backwards.
Guru Arjan Dev, P.1096

Burn those ceremonial customs which lead me to forget my Beloved Lord.
Guru Nanak Dev, P.590

Day and night, behold God by your side. Thus your ignorance will depart and darkness be effaced.
Guru Arjan Dev, P.293

If you deliberate on your education, only then you will become benefactor to all.
Guru Nanak Dev, P.356

Cohabiting with another's wife is equivalent to the company of a venomous snake.
Guru Arjan Dev, P.403

Do not harbor evil intentions against others in your mind, and you shall not be troubled, O friends.
Guru Arjan Dev, P.386

Anger

Anger does not touch him who has shed his ego.

Guru Amar Das, P.29

Do not be angry with anyone; (on the other hand) delve within yourself (think of your deficiencies.)

Guru Arjan Dev, P.259

Wrath and lust destroy body as borax melts the gold.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.932

Farid, answer evil with goodness and do not bear anger in your mind.

Your body shall not suffer from any disease, and you shall obtain everything.

Sheikh Farid, P.1381.

Adultery

An apostate mind is lured by another's wife.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.226

O man, why do you go out to the households of others (to entice their women)? You filthy, heartless, and lustful donkey! Haven't you heard of the justice of God?

Guru Arjan Dev, P.1001

Caste

Call everyone noble; none are lowly. The One Lord has fashioned everyone and His Light pervades all creatures.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.62

In the womb of the mother, neither caste nor family pride exists. It is from the Lord's seed that every body comes into being.

Bhagat Kabir., P. 324

O unwise fool! Don't be proud of your (high) caste, for many sins flow out of this pride.

Guru Amar Das, P.1127

That alone is a man's caste and that is his glory, as are the deeds done by him.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.1330

Character

If you seek the path of good conduct, forsake greed, and do not look upon other men's property and women.

Bhagat Jai Dev, P.526

If you seek your Beloved (God), hurt not anyone's feelings.

Sheikh Farid, P.1384

True peace is found by doing pious deeds.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.931

Conversation

O Nanak, by speaking unpleasant words, one's body and mind become insipid. One is called foul-mouthed and one's reputation becomes bad.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.473

Says Kabeer, the empty pitcher makes noise, but that which is full makes no sound.

Bhagat Kabee, P.870

Do not utter even a single harsh word; your True Lord abides in all.

Sheikh Farid, P.1384

Creation

There are worlds beyond worlds.

Guru Nanak Dev, P. 3

There are hundreds of thousands nether worlds below the nether worlds and so are skies beyond skies.

Guru Nanak Dev, P. 5

From the True Lord came the air, and from the air came water. From water, He created the three worlds; in each and He has infused His Light in every heart.

Guru Nanak Dev, P. 19

So many times, He has expanded His expanse Forever and ever; the Unique Lord remains the same.

Guru Arjan Dev, P. 276

For endless ages, there was only utter darkness. There was no earth or sky; there was only the Divine will.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.1035

When did the Creator created the world? He alone knows.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.4

Effort

Through sincere efforts, the mind is made peaceful and calm.

Guru Arjan Dev, P.201

Let us resolve our affairs with our own hands.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.474

Live making efforts and enjoy peace by working hard.

Guru Arjan Dev, P.522

With your hands and feet, do all your work, but let your consciousness remain with the Immaculate Lord.

Guru Arjan Dev, P.1376

Ego

What is the use of bathing at sacred shrines of pilgrimage, when the filth of stubborn pride is within the mind?

Guru Nanak Dev, P.61

O Nanak, the brave warrior is the one who overcomes his vicious inner-ego.

Guru Amar Das, P.86

Goodness does not touch him who claims to be good.

Guru Arjan Dev, P.278

Guru Nanak says, " The real asses are those persons who pride, but have no virtue. "

Guru Nanak Dev, P. 1246

God

There is but one Supreme Being. True is His Name. He is the Creator. He is without fear and devoid of enmity. He is of Eternal Form. He is Unborn and Self-existent.

Guru Nanak Dev, P. 1

You are the River, All-knowing and All-seeing. I am just a fish - how can I find Your limit? Wherever I look You are there. Outside of You, I would burst and die.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.25.

Without You, there is no other; the entire Universe is the Arena of Your Play, O Lord.

Guru Arjan Dev, P.103

You are my Father, and You are my Mother. You are my Relative, and You are my Brother. You are my Protector; why should I feel any fear or anxiety?

Guru Arjan Dev, P.103

The Lord Himself is manifest and unmanifest.

Guru Amar Das, P.128

The remembrance of God is the most exalted of all.

Guru Arjan Dev, P.263

Allah is hidden in every heart; reflect upon this in your mind.

Bhagat Kabeer, P.483

My Dear Lord and Master, my Friend, speaks so sweetly. I can't recall if He has ever spoken harshly.

Guru Arjan Dev, P.784

Greed

Like the mad dog running around in all directions, the greedy person, unaware, consumes indiscriminately, edible and non-edible alike.

Guru Arjan Dev, P. 50

Through worldly greed, you have fallen into the pit; you know nothing of hereafter.

Guru Arjan Dev, P. 1020

Renounce your greed and become carefree.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.1041

Hypocrisy

We are good at talking, but our conduct is bad. Our minds are impure and black, but outwardly, we appear white (pious).

Guru Nanak Dev, P.85

What use is chanting, and what use is penance, fasting or devotional worship, to one whose heart is filled with the love of duality?

Bhagat Kabeer, P.324

What can be achieved by bowing the head, when the heart is impure?

Guru Nanak Dev, P.470

They are not called pure, who sit down after merely washing their bodies. Only they are pure, O Nanak, within whose minds the Lord abides.

Guru Nanak Dev, P. 472

The holy man is blessed, even if he has not bathed, while a thief is a thief, no matter how much he bathes.

Guru Nanak Dev, P. 789

Humility

Nanak seeks the company of the lowest of the low class, the very lowest of the low. He need not try to emulate the great.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.25

He who considers himself low is counted the highest of all.

Guru Arjan Dev, P.266

Guru Nanak says." Sweet temper and humility is the essence of virtue and merits."

Guru Nanak Dev, P. 470

Mud lies low in utter humility. Due to this way of life, blossoms forth a beautiful lotus in it.

Guru Arjan Dev, P.1364

Householder and Ascetic

O mind, remain detached in the midst of your household.
Guru Amar Das, P.26

It is better to be householder who shares his bread with others than wearing deceptive robes of a mendicant.
Guru Amar Das, P.587

Such is the greatness of the True Guru that one attains emancipation (while living) in the midst of sons and wife (family).

Guru Nanak Dev, P. 661

He who controls his desires becomes true renouncer.
Guru Nanak Dev, P.356

The man who dwells in wilderness, at burial and cremation grounds, is a fool. He does not know the Lord and finally regrets.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.467-468

O man! Why do you go in search of God in the forest? He is Omnipresent, but ever detached and dwells within you.

Guru Tegh Bahadar, P.684

Yoga does not consist in abandoning one's household and roaming in the world.

Guru Amar Das, P.909

Farid says," Why wander through the woods trample thorns (of jungle) under your feet? The Lord abides within you heart. Why do you seek him in the forest?"

Sheikh Farid, P.1378

Honesty

To take what rightfully belongs to another, is like a

Muslim eating pork, or a Hindu eating beef. The Guru and the Spiritual Guides, stand by us, if we do not usurp other's right.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.141

O my mind! Practice not guile even by mistake. In the end, it is your own soul that shall have to render an account.

Bhagat Kabeer, P.656

O' man! You usurp what belongs to another, but God who is within you hears and sees all.

Guru Arjan Dev, P.1020

One should not keep what belongs to others. Returning it, one attains peace.

Guru Amar Das, P.1249

Jealousy

One who is jealous of others never comes to any good.

Guru Ram Das, P.308

O my mind! Do not indulge in jealousy.

Bhagat Kabeer, P. 479

Man suffers a lot of pain due to jealousy, and is cursed throughout the three worlds.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.1091

Lust

Excessive pleasures lead to suffering. Sexual pleasure causes disease and one is ultimately ruined.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.1034

O lust! you lead the mortals to hell; you make them wander through countless births (species) . You cheat

the mind, and pervade the three worlds. You destroy meditation, penance and virtue You give only shallow pleasure, while you make the mortals weak and unsteady; you pervade the high and the low .Nanak says, "Your fear is dispelled in the holy congregation, and through the Protection and Support of the Lord.'

Guru Arjan Dev, P.1358

Omen

Good omens and bad omens affect him who forgets the Lord.

Guru Arjan Dev, P.401

(O Priest) You calculate the auspicious day and time, but do not realize that the Supreme Being is above and beyond these.

Guru Nanak Dev, P. 904

Rituals

He does not honor his ancestors while they are alive, but holds feasts in their honor after they have died. How can the poor ancestors receive what the crows and the dogs have eaten up?

Bhagat Kabeer, P.332

Don't endure the torture of rituals and religious rites.

Bhagat Kabeer, P.343

Make compassion the cotton, contentment the thread, modesty the knot and truth the twist. O Brahman! This is the sacred thread of the soul; if you have it, then go ahead and put it on me.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.471

The impurity of the mind is greed, and the impurity of the tongue is falsehood. The impurity of the eyes is to covet the beauty of another man's wife, and his wealth. The impurity of the ears is to listen to the slander of others.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.472

A Sattie is not one who burns herself on the pyre of her husband. Nanak! A Suttee is one who dies with the shock of separation.

Guru Amar Das, P.787

Service

In the world, dedicate yourself to the service of others, and you shall be given a place of honor in the Court of the Lord.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.26

He who serves without the desire for reward attains to the Lord.

Guru Arjan Dev, P286

(O God!) All living beings are Yours. Without selfless service, no one obtains any reward.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.354

Slander

Innumerable are the slanderers who carry on their heads load of sins (of slandering others.)

Guru Nanak Dev, P. 4

It is not good to slander anyone, only the foolish egocentrics do it. The faces of the slanderers turn black, and they fall into the most horrible hell.

Guru Amar Dass, P.755

At first I gave up the slander of others. Then all the cares of my mind were dispelled.

Guru Arjan Dev, P.1147

Toleration and Contentment

No one is satisfied without contentment.

Guru Arjan Dev, P.279

O Sheikh! Why do you go for pilgrimage to Kaaba without patience in your heart? He who does not possess a contented mind can't attain to the Lord.

Bhagat Kabeer, P.1374

Fareed, do not turn around and strike those who strike at you. Kiss their feet, and return to your own home.

Sheikh Farid, P.1378

Woman

If one woman dies, we seek another; through the woman are the bonds of the world. Why do we call her inferior who gives birth to the kings?

Guru Nanak Dev, P.473

From the woman is born woman. There is none without woman. Nanak says: There is only the True Lord (born) without woman."

Guru Nanak Dev, P.473

O man of divine wisdom! Realize that the woman is born through the man's sperm and male is born through the female.

Guru Nanak Dev, P.879

Sri Guru Granth Sahib

(A Bird's Eye View)

Total no. of 5894 hymns : 5894

Guru Nanak Dev Ji : 976

Guru Angad Dev Ji : 61

Guru AmarDas Ji : 907

Guru RamDas Ji : 679

Guru Arjan Dev Ji : 2216

Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji : 118

Bhagats and Bards : 937

Their Views.....

Rev. H.L. Bradshaw of the U.S.A.:

The Guru Granth Sahib of all the world religious scriptures, alone states that there are innumerable worlds and universes other than our own. The previous scriptures were all concerned only with this world and its spiritual counterpart. To imply that they spoke of other worlds as does the Guru Granth Sahib, is to stretch their obvious meanings out of context. The Sikh religion is truly the answer to the problems of the modern man.

Miss Pearl S. Buck, a Nobel laureate:

I have studied the scriptures of the great religions, but I do not find elsewhere the same power of appeal to the heart and mind as I find here in these volumes. They are compact in spite of their length and are a revelation of the concept of God to the recognition and indeed the insistence upon the practical needs of the human body. There is something strangely modern about these scriptures and this puzzled me until I learned that they are in fact comparatively modern, compiled as late as the 16th century when explorers were beginning to discover the globe upon which we all live is a single entity divided only by arbitrary lines of our making. Perhaps this sense of unity is the source of power I find in these volumes. They speak to a person of any religion or of none. They speak for the human heart and the searching mind.

Arnold Toynbee, a historian:

Mankind's religious future may be obscure; yet one thing can be foreseen. The living higher religions are going to influence each other more than ever before, in the days of increasing communications between all parts of the world and branches of human race. In this coming religious debate, the Sikh religion and its scriptures, the Guru Granth, will have something special of value to say to the rest of the world.